

August 30, 2002

A Report to the Honorable
Mayor and City Council

City Manager's Report

City of College Station

What's Going On?

Update on Park's Capital Improvement Projects

Special points of interest:

- *Update on Park's Capital Improvement Projects*
- *Update on Building Permits*
- *College Station Utilities Benefits from Digitized Maps*
- *Wolf Pen Creek Voted "Best Live Music Venue"*

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The Lincoln Center Improvement Project is now complete.

The building improvements consisted of the construction of an entry and reception area at the north entrance of the building and the modifying of restrooms to meet ADA standards. Benches were also installed as part of the ongoing intergenerational project being coordinated by the Parks and Recreations Department. The cost of the project was \$90,000 and was funded through Community Development Block Grants. The City Council approved the construction contract on March 14, 2002.

Another project, nearing completion, is a jogging/walking track at Jack and Dorothy Miller Park, located adjacent to Rock Prairie Elementary School.

The project provides concrete and rubber cushion surfacing for the jogging/walking trail at the park. The new trail and padded surface provides a safer running surface for the students that participate in the school's running program.

The project came as result of an interlocal Agreement between the City of College Station, the College Station Independent School District and the Rock Prairie Parent-Teacher's Organization (PTO). The Rock Prairie PTO will donate the cost of the rubber cushion



**New Entrance at the
Lincoln Center**

surfacing over a five (5)-year period. The City Council approved this interlocal agreement on March 14, 2002. The total project cost was just over \$60,000. City funding amounted to \$29,250, that came out of the FY 02 General Fund.

"Welcome to College Station"

The City hosted a "Welcome to College Station" table inside the Texas A&M Memorial Student Center on August 28 and 29. City representatives from the Public Communications, Police,

Fire and College Station Utilities departments provided information and answered student questions on topics such as ePAY, party patrol, fire safety and the "Bee a Good

Neighbor Campaign." The City will also host a table on September 4 and 5 in the same location.

City Working to Provide Better Water Production



Tee Section with Two Valves

Employees from Garney Pipe and our Water Production staff linked the existing water transmission pipeline to the new water transmission pipeline, both located on Sandy Point Road. In order to connect the existing and new pipelines together, the Wellfield Transfer Pump Station had to be temporarily shut down, meaning the City had no water production capacity during the construction period. The City instead relied on stored water and supplemental water provided from the

City of Bryan and Texas A&M University, in order to continue providing normal water service to customers during the shutdown.

The entire operation took about ten hours, but the work was completed and the City's water system returned to full operation within six hours.

The existing 30-inch transmission pipeline can carry approximately

19 million gallons of water each day to College Station. Upgrades to the Sandy Point Pump Station completed in 2001 allow the pump station to transmit well over 19 million gallons of water a day. A second transmission pipeline will therefore allow College Station to provide additional water to meet customer demand, and serve as a backup if one pipeline needs to be taken out of service.

College Station Hosted an "Open House" for Seniors

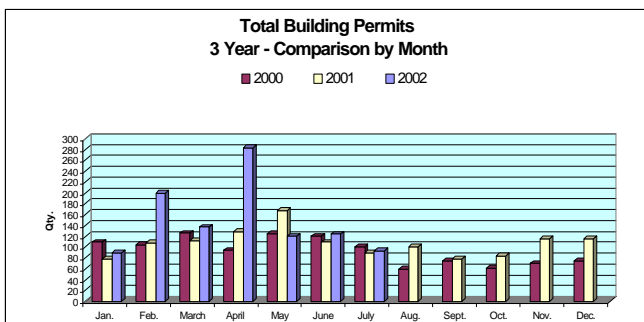
Our Parks and Recreation Department hosted an "Open House" for senior citizens on Wednesday, August 28. The Open House was held at the EXIT Teen Center, which is located in Southwood Athletic Park on Rock Prairie Road.

At the Open House, senior citizens previewed fall classes and programs that are available to them through the Parks and Recreation Department. The instructors of these classes were on hand to answer questions, provide demonstrations and distribute informational brochures

for classes.

The College Station Police and Fire Departments also had representatives present to discuss their community education programs. Registration for fall classes begins Tuesday, September 3.

Update on Building Permits



The total building permits issued by the City is up 32% from this time last year, and up 34% from two years ago at this time.

The increase in permits is due to the rise of single family, roofing and slab permits being issued this year. In 2002, the largest number of permits issued has been

for single-family residential construction. The number of single-family home permits is up 28% from last year and up 60% from two years ago. Commercial permits are up 11% from this time last year, but are down 4% from two years ago.

Update on the Veterans Memorial

The development of a Brazos Valley Veterans Memorial is being coordinated through the Arts Council of Brazos Valley and a separate veterans committee.

A design committee consisting of artists, veterans and community leaders met to choose the artist, Robert Eccleston of Schuyler Falls, New York. The sculpture was sent to

the bronzing foundry in New York for casting and has now arrived back in College Station. The veterans committee has exceeded the stated goal of raising \$500,000 for the memorial project, which involved fund raising, educational programs in local schools and other media events. The dedication of the memorial will take

place on November 11, 2002. The memorial will consist of a statue and wall inscribed with over 1,700 names of veterans. The memorial is a part of the new Veterans Park and Athletic Complex, which is anticipated to be in use by early 2003.



Veterans Memorial
Statue

College Station Utilities Benefits from Digitized Maps

Accurate information makes for accurate decisions. This is true for any employee at College Station Utilities, but it is especially true for electrical linemen in the field.

For linemen, information comes in the form of accurate maps. Maps indicating existing and future facilities are tools used everyday by electrical linemen and field

crews.

The maps used by electrical field crews have advanced over the recent years. Just a few years ago, truck maps used by electrical crews were 225 page hardcover map books. This cumbersome map made it difficult to troubleshoot an electrical outage after hours, in the dark and possibly in the rain. Now all a crew has to do is

open a laptop computer and display the area in question on a 15" monitor. Troubleshooting power outages is just one of the many uses for a digitized map. Maps are also used for locating underground lines, planning jobs, and identifying device size or characteristics.



College Station's Xtra Education Gears Up for Fall Schedule

Xtra Education, a joint City-CSISD program, promises an exciting Fall 2002 schedule of classes. Class subjects will include arts and crafts, dance, computer training, dog obedience, wine education/tasting and photography. New for this fall are gardening classes and Christmas holiday crafts classes. Community education offers residents the opportunity to enjoy long-time interests or new

hobbies, offering something for everyone. The Parks and Recreation Department and the College Station Independent School District launched Xtra Education in the Fall of 1996. Through Xtra Education, you can explore the delicious world of culinary arts or learn foreign languages.

Also offered are outdoor education, classes just for kids and just for seniors, business

opportunities, music classes and numerous special interest classes. Xtra Education provides the opportunity to learn something new, enhance your quality of life, and to get involved with your community, friends and neighbors. Registration for fall classes begins on September 3rd and will continue until the classes start or are filled.

College Station Mayor and Councilmember Receive TML Certificates of Achievement and Recognition

College Station Mayor Ron Silvia and Councilmembers Dennis Maloney, John Happ, and Scott Mears traveled to El Paso, July 25, 26 and 27, to attend the 37th Annual Texas Municipal League Institute (TMLI) for Mayors, Councilmembers and Commissioners. The three-day event provided an opportunity for elected city officials to enhance their knowledge of city government and strengthen their leadership skills.

Mayor Silvia received a Certificate of Achievement for completing 54 hours of TMLI continuing education, and Councilmember Maloney was honored with a Certificate of Outstanding Accomplishment for earning 72 TMLI continuing educational units.

In addition, former College Station Mayor Lynn McIlhaney was recognized for the key role she played in development of TMLI during her tenure as Mayor.

Elected city officials may obtain TMLI continuing education units by attending any TML-sponsored event, such as the TML Annual Conference. Continuing education may also be received through training offered by outside organizations, college courses, National League of Cities' events, and TML audio and videotapes. The Texas Municipal League is

a voluntary association of over 1,000 Texas cities. The City of College Station is a member of this association.

Remote Capital Project Supervision

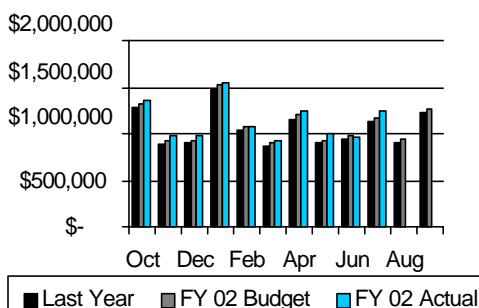
The Office of Technology and Information Services installed a webcam that allows the City's architects and engineers to view the new Municipal Court construction progress over the Internet. The webcam is so powerful that it allows a viewer to see the wood grain in a two-by-four, even at the furthest end of the construction site. The webcam allows our architects and engineers to identify potential problems in the early stages.

Potentially identifying a problem in an early phase could save time and money to the construction project. A remote webcam was also used on the Lick Creek Waste Water Treatment Plant expansion project.



July Sales Tax Receipts

**FY 2002 MONTHLY
SALES TAX REVENUE**



The City collected \$1,236,067.77 for the month of July, which is 9.02% above the same month last year.

The July receipts are for sales that occurred in June. Sales tax collections for FY 02 YTD are \$11,331,971.91 or 7.01% above FY 01 collections. Sales tax revenues for the month

remain higher than this time last year. The total receipts for FY 02 have exceeded the estimate by 3.48%. Please note that the FY 02 estimate does factor in some expected growth in tax revenue, which means tax receipts are continuing to grow faster than forecasted.

Additionally, this sales tax figure does not reflect any

impact of the recent sales tax holiday. Our Budget Office will continue to monitor national, state, and local economic trends to determine what impact those trends may have on sales tax receipts in FY 02 and on the FY 02 budget.

Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater Voted "Best Live Music Venue"

With sell-out shows last fall, hot Texas artists, amphitheater ambience and the new Starlight Music Series, College Station's Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater topped Bryan Broadcasting's Best of the Brazos Valley 2002 list as the Brazos Valley's "Best Live Music Venue for 2002."

The amphitheater has hosted an array of artists, such as Pat Green, Bo Diddley, Robert Earl Keen, Jerry Jeff Walker, Bruce Robison, Trout Fishing in America, Big Otis, Grupo Vida and Ian Moore. This facility has become a popular venue for many residents.

Wolf Pen Creek has been the site of over 160 events since its opening in 1993, including ticketed events, free concerts, plays, comedy shows, private parties, weddings and festivals. The facility is owned and operated by the City with support from College Station Utilities. Over 46,000 attendees have enjoyed quality live music under the stars at Wolf Pen Creek over the past ten months. The venue will feature the Annual Ag Kickoff on

September 14 with a performance by Pat Green. On October 4, Robert Earl Keen will be the featured artist.



Citizens' Police Academy

The College Station Police Department is preparing to conduct the 31st session of its Citizens' Police Academy. This free 12-week program will begin on September 3.

The Citizens' Police Academy is designed to provide citizens with information on how the criminal justice system and police departments operate, and how police and residents can

work together to reduce crime. Participants can enjoy a variety of new experiences and get a good look at their police department from an "inside" perspective. Some of the interesting topics covered include: the opportunity to ride-along with police officers, to learn about criminal law, the judicial system and investigation procedures. Other topics will

include gangs and narcotics, SWAT/Hostage negotiation, crime scene search and traffic stops. Citizens interested in attending the free class should complete an application at the College Station Police Department. Applications are also available online at the College Station Police Department web site at cspd.ci.college-station.tx.us.



Status of Intergenerational Parks Project

As a part of its strategic planning process, the City Council identified the need to make our parks more intergenerational. Part of this is done by offering passive recreational opportunities for citizens. The Parks and Recreation Department has accomplished the first phase of installing benches from the selected list of intergenerational facility stan-

dards. The project included the installation of 26 benches at Central, Cy Miller, Lions, Merry Oaks, Oaks and W.A. Tarrow Parks. These six parks are in Zones 2, 3 and 6. Benches in Zones 2 and 6 were funded with Community Development funds, and benches in Zone 3 were funded with Park Land

Dedication Funds. The Parks and Recreation Department is currently working on plans to install additional benches at Anderson, Bee Creek, Brothers Pond, Jack and Dorothy Miller, Georgie K. Fitch and Lemontree Parks. These will also be funded with Community Development and Park Land Dedication Funds. The cost of installation (not including the bench cost) of each bench with a concrete slab is approximately \$750. Benches with existing slabs are being replaced at no additional cost. In addition, 13 of these same-style benches will be installed as a part of the Wolf Pen Creek trails project, which is currently under construction.





What's Going On?

City Manager's Report City of College Station

Embracing the Past, Exploring the Future.

WERE ON THE WEB!

WWW.CI.COLLEGE-STATION.TX.US

Shining Moments

- *GIS Coordinator, Gus Roman has been asked to serve on the soon to be created Texas A&M University Geographic Information System Steering Committee.*
- *Firefighters Canaan Blake and Kevin Simmons received a phone call from a citizen thanking them for their assistance.*
- *Bart Humphreys and Ralph Staplin received an e-mail from DeMerle Giordano of the Brazos County Emergency Management. She thanked them for their participation at a recent PIO Workshop regarding the Crisis Response Team on August 5th.*
- *Assistant Recreation Supervisor, Jenny Hartsfield received a letter from a parent commending her and tennis instructors Erin Harris, Ruben Canales, David Hill, and Leanne Stout, for the way in which they met the needs of a young participant with Asperger's syndrome. This is a disorder on the Autism spectrum. Our instructors went out of their way to help this young man. They took turns shadowing him and making sure he understood what he needed to do and ensuring that he was having fun.*

College Station Encourages Residents to Attend the Second Annual Neighborhood Conference and Youth Vision

The College Station Neighborhood Services Office is encouraging residents to sign-up for its second annual neighborhood conference event, "NEIGHBORHOOD FOCUS: Community Begins Next Door." The conference will be held Saturday, September 14 at the College Station Middle School on Rock Prairie Road. The conference will include various discussion sessions with local experts and leaders on various topics related to neighborhood issues and quality of life issues. There will be

over 30 workshops for adults to choose from on City services, community planning issues and Neighborhood Associations. Area youth, grades K-12 are encouraged to attend the conference's "Youth Vision!" session for a chance to have fun while learning about neighborhood planning issues.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Rick Rigsby. This event is part of the City's ongoing and award-winning efforts to work with residents and



neighborhood groups to enhance our community through neighborhood planning. A registration form is available online at <http://devservices.ci.college-station.tx.us/neighborhood/>